



March 2006

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• **Legislative Update**

There is no legislative activity on national heritage areas to report this month.

-The **President's Budget** for FY2007, released February 6, proposes \$7.4 million and some programmatic changes for National Heritage Areas. The proposed budget is available to the public at <http://www.nps.gov/applications/budget2/gbchoose.htm>

-For list of legislation currently introduced in the 109th Congress, visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/LEG/introbills109.pdf>

• **This Month in the Heritage Areas**

-Quinebaug & Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor, located in northeast Connecticut and south-central Massachusetts, has launched a new tourism website for visitors to their region. The website, still under construction but already full of information, provides a comprehensive inventory of accommodations, calendar of events, and attractions. Of interest to other heritage areas may be the Last Green Valley's Cycling and Bed & Breakfast packages.

You can visit the website at <http://www.visitthelastgreenvalley.info>



• **News from the Alliance of National Heritage Areas**

-The **Alliance of National Heritage Areas Annual Meeting** held their annual meeting in Washington, DC February 6-8, 2006. Following a board meeting on Monday the 6th, National Park System Advisory Board Member and Partnerships Committee Chair Mayor Jerry Hruby addressed national heritage areas and their partners from the NPS, Federal agencies, Congress and the non-profit sector at the Alliance's 8th Annual Congressional Reception. Hruby joined other distinguished speakers including Deputy Director Don Murphy and Senator Craig Thomas of Wyoming in welcoming the national heritage areas managers to Washington and acknowledging their work over the past year. Distinguished guests included Kit Kimball, Director and Vicki Dixon, Special Assistant of the DOI Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs, Congressman Paul Kanjorski (PA) and Advisory Board Member Bill Walters.

Mayor Hruby spoke of the Advisory Board's recent charge to undertake a review of the National Heritage Areas in the National Park System, and of the appreciation and respect he and other members have gained for the work that national heritage areas do within their regions and in partnership with the National Park Service. Deputy Director Murphy also



spoke about the NPS partnership with national heritage areas and of the importance of stories and people to the preservation of the American landscape.

Dayton Sherrouse, Chair of the Alliance introduced the speakers, including Senator Craig Thomas of Wyoming, who has shepherded National Heritage Areas program legislation through the Senate. Guests numbered almost 150, and included a number of Congressional staff as well as partners from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Other events included a Best Practices Roundtable in which heritage areas staff and experts gave presentations and answered questions on *The Ins and Outs of MGM2*, *Lackawanna Heritage Trail and Riverfront Greenway Development*, and *Marketing, Branding and Re-branding your National Heritage Area*. At a breakfast meeting, delegates to last year's U.S. Cultural and Heritage Tourism Summit met with Dean Reeder, NPS National Tourism Director to discuss partnership opportunities.

To learn more about the Alliance, visit <http://www.nationalheritageareas.org>

● Grants and Awards Opportunities

-Applications are invited for **Federal Save America's Treasures Grants** administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

Save America's Treasures grants are available for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and collections and on nationally significant historic properties. Grants are awarded through a competitive process and require a dollar-for-dollar, non-Federal match, which can be cash, donated services, or use of equipment. The minimum grant request for collections projects is \$25,000 Federal share; the minimum grant request for historic property projects is \$125,000 Federal share. The maximum grant request for all projects is \$700,000 Federal share. In 2005, the average Federal grant award to collections was \$179,000, and the average award to historic properties was \$299,000. To learn more about eligible activities, selection criteria, administrative and funding requirements, and to download application submission instructions, visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/treasures/index.htm> Applicants should review the Selection Criteria and Review Criteria carefully and read the Guidelines and Application Instructions in detail before completing the application. Applications must be received by 5:00 pm EST, Tuesday, April 18, 2006.

-**2006-2007 Save Our History Grant Program**--This year, The History Channel® will award \$250,000 in grants of up to \$10,000 to fund partnerships between history organizations and schools or youth groups on projects that teach students about their local history and actively engage them in its preservation. History museums, historical societies, preservation organizations, historic sites, libraries, archives, government agencies, and other historical organizations are all eligible to apply. For guidelines, criteria and to apply, please visit http://www.saveourhistory.com/pres_org/index.html. The deadline for submitting an application for the 2006-2007 grant cycle is Friday, June 2nd, 2006. Funded projects can be implemented at any time during the 2006-2007 school year.

● Conferences and Workshops

-Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) will host their annual conference, **Living Landscape--Iowa's Hidden Treasure**, on March 21-22, 2006 in Decorah, Iowa, at Hotel Winneshiek. Sessions will focus on developing skills related to heritage development including collecting oral histories, learning how visitor data collection can prove beneficial to marketing plans, developing and coordinating strong volunteer programs and preserving an historic site using volunteer efforts. The conference also includes information on resources SSNHA provides, include their educational website CampSilos, and preparing for group travelers. There will also be off-site activities including field trips to The Dairy Center and Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum. Conference participants will also receive a toolkit of resources in addition to learning about heritage area opportunities.

Chuck Offenburger will reflect on his 40 years of writing experience based on the people, places and events of Iowa, and the following day will spotlight KGAN Channel 2's Iowa Traveler, Cary J. Hahn. Registration for the two-day event is \$100, due by March 10. A pre-conference workshop, *"Navigating the Landscape of Grant Funding"*, will be held on Monday, March 20, at the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.silosandsmokestacks.org/conference> or contact Jodi Verbraken at 319.234.4567 or jverbraken@silosandsmokestacks.org.

-The first **Civic Tourism National Conference** will be held March 16-18 in Prescott, Arizona. Civic Tourism is an extension of cultural tourism, heritage tourism, ecotourism, geotourism, and other alternative approaches that position a region's sense of place as the tourism attraction; the focus is on responsible product development, not marketing. This conference will host sessions designed as conversations, where all participants will be able to dig deeply into the issues that frame place-based tourism (i.e., authenticity, carrying capacity, interpretation, the community's role). Presenters will represent a variety of the disciplines that place-based tourism encompasses, including the natural environment, historic preservation, cultural programs, politics, and the travel industry.



The Civic Tourism website provides additional information including a "Forum" section where people can post questions, suggestions, concerns, and other comments related to place-based tourism. The Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency, and Tourism Cares for Tomorrow, a private foundation are providing financial support. Register for the 2006 Civic Tourism conference at <http://www.civictourism.org>.



Erie, and Schuylkill River national heritage areas. For more information, visit <http://www.canals.org>

-Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor will host the biennial World Canals Conference September 12-14, 2006 in Bethlehem, PA. This year's theme, "Industry to Recreation: Greening the Coal Canals" will provide three tracks that focus on *Heritage Partnerships*, *Restoration*, *Operations and Interpretation*, and *Economics of Preservation*. The heritage session will feature presenters from the Delaware & Lehigh, Erie Canalway, Ohio &

● Publications and Resources

-Local leaders interested in promoting learning, leadership, and closer professional relationships among educators across the state have formed the **South Carolina Council for African American Studies** to foster and promote the teaching of African American culture and diasporic relationships in South Carolina. The organization strives to promote the study of African Americans in K-12, College, Universities, and professional organizations, create academic standards for an African American curriculum, and increase awareness of and support for individual, group or organizational initiatives that connect business, educational, cultural and social relationships. This organization may be of interest to other states looking at fostering the study, teaching, and sharing of African American culture. SCCAAS will host a 2006 Statewide Conference on “African American Studies Across the Curriculum” on October 26-28, 2006. Visit their website at <http://www.sccaas.org> for more information.

● Other news

-New heritage area activity has been occurring just north of the border. The recently completed **Ottawa River Background Study** (for nomination of the Ottawa as a Canadian Heritage River) study was facilitated and produced by the Canadian staff of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation (QLF) and is now available on the Ottawa River Heritage Designation Committee's website. You can consult it at http://www.ottawariver.org/html/news/whatsnew_e.html.

● For more information on heritage areas, visit our [website](#).

-If you have heritage area news to share with the 650+ readers who receive this e-bulletin, please feel free to send it to the editor.

Please forward this bulletin to others who may be interested, and encourage them to join our e-bulletin address list.

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